

Provincial Library

THE CHRONICLE

VOL. IV. NO. 17.

CROSSFIELD, ALBERTA, FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 1911.

PRICE \$1 A YEAR.

Oil Station for Crossfield

IMPERIAL OIL CO. WILL ERECT STATION HERE AT ONCE.

It has been definitely announced that the Imperial Oil Co. will erect a station here at once, with Geo. Becker, of the Crossfield Lumber Yard in charge.

This station will be used to supply Crossfield, Carstairs and Airdrie. Watch them come.



A FRIEND

In time of need is a friend indeed. Then why not be warm and comfortable during the winter months? Is a question to be answered by all. Our Fine Selection of Good Coal is Your only True Winter's Friend. It can be used in the Furnace, Heater, or Coal Stove, or the warm Fire-side. Prices Reasonable.

CROSSFIELD LUMBER YARD

Cheap Lumber

YOUR LAST CHANCE FOR THIS SEASON TO BUY CHEAP LUMBER. We want to clear out our entire stock of about 250,000 feet of well seasoned, Dry Pine Lumber, during the month of March.

One Proof: That the lumber is good and that we can save you money, is clearly seen, when we have sold and taken orders for about \$500,000, in the past three months.

See our stock and get our prices and you will be convinced.

If you cannot get the lumber yourself, we'll furnish for you, if any want.

(WANTED, TEAMS TO HAUL LUMBER)

SILVER CREEK LUMBER CO., or ALLAN GOOD
CREMONA, ALTA. DIDSBURY, ALTA.

SHOE REPAIRING

MR. H. E. HOPCRAFT wishes to announce to the General Public that he has opened up a Shoe Repairing Shop, West of P. C. Cowling's Livery Barn.

All shoes not called for within 30 days, will be sold to defray expenses

TERMS STRICTLY CASH
H. E. HOPCRAFT
West of Cowling's Livery Barn

THE ARCADE POOL HALL and CIGAR STORE

Come in and spend a pleasant hour and try our Cigars and Soft Drinks. Latest and best Magazines always kept in stock. Best of Music always on the go.

Pipe Repairing a Specialty

W. TIMS
CROSSFIELD

PROP.
ALBERTA

ALBERTA HOTEL

Rates \$1.50 and \$2.00 per Day

Nothing but white help employed

Good Accommodation

GEO. STRATTON,

PROP.

The Toronto Ladies' Quartette appeared in the I. O. O. F. Hall, on Wednesday evening, under the auspices of the local Odd Fellows' Lodge. These ladies are true artists, and were well received by those present. The committee who were instrumental in bringing this entertainment here are to be congratulated as these ladies gave the people of Crossfield the best entertainment that has been accorded them in many moons.

REMEMBER
The Crossfield
Agricultural Fair,
CORONATION DAY,
JUNE 22nd.

\$1,500.00 in Prizes
40 Classes, and over
250 Sections.

PRIZES FOR EVERY-
THING & EVERYBODY

S. TIMMINS, Secretary.

WE HANDLE

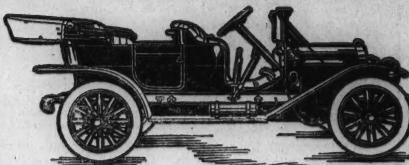
The best line of machinery on the market to-day. That, is the MASSEY-HARRIS IMPLEMENTS

Including MOWERS, BINDERS, PLOWS of all kinds, DISCS, HARROWS, and everything in the machinery line.

WE ALSO HANDLE

The VERITY STEAM GANG PLOWS, which till the land to stay tilled. Repairs for all Massey-Harris Machinery Supplied.

EMIL WEGENER, Agent
CROSSFIELD, ALBERTA



DO YOU WANT TO SELL?

If so, Call and see us or Write.

We have Facilities to do the Rest

Murton Realty Co.
Next Door to the Bank.

CROSSFIELD,

ALBERTA.

This is Dave's Corner.

Dave also has a corner in Distinctive Styles
in Clothes and Men's Wear.

In This We Lead---Others Follow.

We have splendid values in Trousers,
Peabody's Overalls, Hats and Gloves.

HATS HAGEN SHIRTS SHOES

D. G. HARVIE

THE FOUR FINGERS

By FRED M. WHITE,

Author of

The Crimson Blind; The Cardinal Net; The House of the Crown; The Castle House; The Blows of Silence; Graven Fortune; The Fatal Dose; Netta.

(Continued.)

It was not long after breakfast on the following morning that Venner walked into Gordon's rooms with a new proposal.

"I have been thinking out this confounded thing," he said. "I have an idea; as you know, the house where you had your adventure, the other night, is still there. I have reason to think that perhaps it may be let. If so we are going to call upon the agent in the character of prospective tenants. What I want to do is to ascertain what is the name of the owner of the premises."

"I see," Gordon said thoughtfully.

"I'll run over to the house to see if the agent is there. I have some instructions, and it is some considerable time since I have heard from my client. You see, he lives abroad."

"Can't you give me some instructions, and let me write to him direct? It would save time."

"That, I fear, is equally impossible," the agent explained. "My client would be bound to know that I have been here, and I have no idea where and I haven't the remotest idea where to find him. However, I'll do my best."

"You might tell us his name," Venner said.

"Certainly. His name is Mr. La Fenu."

"What do you make of it?" Venner said, when once more he and Gordon were in the street. "I see you have forgotten what the name of Le Fenu is. Don't you remember me telling you that the original owner of the Four Finger Mine who was murdered by the Dutchman, Van Fort, was called La Fenu?"

CHAPTER XI.

An Unexpected Discovery

On the whole the discovery was enough to stagger the man. It proved to be an understatement that the name of himself Bates must have been in some way connected with the one-time unfortunate owner of the Four Finger Mine. Bates was a little taller than the two friends, walked a trifle faster, and the street together. Venner paused briefly, and stood as if an idea had occurred to him.

"It is a notion that something will come of this," he said. "I had a great mind to go back to the agent's house and try to get the key of the empty house, and then get a priest or other."

"What do you want for?" Gordon asked.

"I am not sure that I want it for anything," Venner admitted. "I have a vague idea, a shadowy theory, that I am on the right track at last, but may be wrong, especially as I am dealing with an unscrupulous and unscrupulous Fenwick."

"I think I'll step round to that agent's office this afternoon and get the key. Somewhere on the street was a town house, and I don't see why that Port mouth Square place shouldn't suit me very well."

Venner was true to his intention, and later in the afternoon was once more cloistered with the agent.

"Do you really want to let the place?" he asked.

"My word, sir, I'm not quite sure," the agent replied. "As I said before, it is such a difficult matter to get in contact with the owner."

"But unless he wanted to let it, why did he put it into your hands?" Venner asked. "Still, you can try to communicate with him, and it will save time if I may leave the keys to take measurements and to make estimates for the decorating and so on. I will give you any references you require."

"Oh, there can be no objection to that," the agent replied. "Yes, you can have the keys now if you like. You are not in the least likely to run away with them."

Venner departed presently with the keys in his possession, and made his way back to the hotel. He had hardly reached his own room when a waiter came in to tell him that it was from Vera, with an urgent message that Venner would see her at once, and an intimation that there would be no danger in his going up to the suite, which occupied the floor above.

Fenwick, Venner lost no time in answering this message. He felt vaguely uneasy and alarmed. Surely there must be some way, he thought, he would not have sent for him in this sudden manner. He could not quite see either, how it was that he could call on Fenwick, without risk.

However he hesitated no longer and knocked at the outer door of the self-contained rooms, which summons was presently answered by Vera herself.

"You can come in," she said. "I am absolutely alone."

Mr. Fenwick had gone off in a great hurry with all his assistants, and my own mind will not be back for some time," he said. "There is then no chance of Fenwick coming?" Vera asked. "I have come here now, all my plans would be ruined. My dearest girl, why don't you leave him and come to me? I have decided to do this, and I want to know that you are constantly in contact with such a man as that. It isn't as if you were any relation to him."

"Thank goodness, I am no relation at all," Vera replied. "It is not for my own sake that I endure all this humiliation."

"Then, why endure it?" Venner urged.

"Because I cannot help myself. Because I have to look after and shield from the world. Some day you will know the whole truth, but not yet, because my lips are sealed. I have not yet had time to talk about myself. There are other and more urgent matters. I am perfectly sure that something very wrong is going on here. Not long after the agent left, Mr. Fenwick, Mr. Fenwick was sitting here reading the paper, when he suddenly rose in a great agitation and began sending telegrams right and left. I am certain that he was sending out his intelligence in that paper; but what it was, I, of course, cannot say. We have been looking everywhere for a clue and a lead, and vain."

"The telegrams dispatched by the three or four men here, whom Mr. Fenwick has his clerks, gathered all his papers and sent them to the post office. They were sent off by express vans. Mr. Fenwick told me that everything was going to the place that he had taken at first, but that after the first few hours none of the boxes were labelled. Anyway they have all gone, and I am to remain here until I hear from Mr. Fenwick again."

Venner had to understand; in the plainest manner knowledge it was plain to him that these men had been interrupted in some work, and had to leave the office.

He expressed a wish to see the paper which had been the cause of the trouble.

The newspaper lay on the desk here. Fenwick had picked it up in his hands, and Venner took it up in his hands.

"This has not been disturbed?" he asked.

"Of course it has," Venner replied.

"Mr. Grady is quite as celebrated in his way as you are. But you see, there was a time when I took a keen interest in crime and criminals and stories of that kind. The world of India would make a respectable volume. When I heard that you were coming over here—"

"The papers were coming here?"

"Yes, I heard that," Venner said significantly. "I should very much like to know how you heard that."

"You needn't be alarmed," Venner laughed. "Nobody has betrayed your secret mission, though strangely enough, I fancy I shall be the last to give away some of your considerable associations. I happened to see an article in the Herald today alluding to a mysterious gang of swindlers who had hit upon a novel form of swindling."

"And Venner took it up in his hands and Venner had to understand; in the plainest manner knowledge it was plain to him that these men had been interrupted in some work, and had to leave the office.

Very carefully Venner scanned the columns of the paper. He came at length to something that seemed to him to be of interest. A paragraph which appeared to have been forced upon Fenwick. The paragraph was not a long one, and one remnant of the Daily Herald.

"We are informed," the paragraph ran, "that the police here believe that the man on the track is the author of the robbery of the swindlers who were so successful in their bank forgery two years ago. Naturally enough the swindlers and venner are as much to blame as the police, but they declare that they have made a discovery which embraces what is practically a new crime, or, at any rate, one which has not been committed before. As far as we can understand, the police were first put upon the track by the discovery of the fact that the gold had been stolen. When, however, they had proven beyond the shadow of a doubt that the gold in question had been probably the gold which naturally belongs to the swindlers, it was then necessary to ask themselves what it was intended for. As the metal could be so easily transferred into cash, it was the swindlers who were in the act of taking the gold to Europe?"

This question, the Head of the Crime, Investigation Department feels sure that he has solved.

"The swindlers are now looking for sterilizing developments before long. Meanwhile two of the smartest detectives in New York are on the way to Fenwick and are expected to reach Liverpool by the Umbria today."

"There is the source of the trouble," Venner said. "I hardly care about knowing how the swindlers got so less information you have on the better the better. And I don't want your face to betray you to the sharp eyes of the police."

He was, however, so afraid of meeting terrible happenings that I feel inclined to run away and hide myself. What shall I do now? I am afraid you can't help me."

"I can help you in a way you little dream of," Venner said with a smile. "For the present, at any rate, you will be doing exactly as Fenwick tells you. I am not sure that you here all alone when we have a chance like this; after dinner, I am going to take you to a theatre. Mean-while, I will leave you to the sharp eyes of the police."

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